

**RECEIVED**  
**CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

SEP 20 2004

This facsimile message and its contents are legally privileged and confidential information intended solely for the use of the addressee. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying or other use of this message and its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this telecopy in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to us at the address shown below via the Postal Service. Thank You.

## ALSTON & BIRD LLP

101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000  
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000  
704-444-1000  
Fax: 704-444-1111

### TELECOPY

**PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY**

**DATE:** September 20, 2004

**TO:** UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
ART UNIT 1725

Andrew T. Spence  
Reg. No. 45,699

In re: Burford et al.  
Appl. No. 10/706,480  
Filed October 27, 2003

Confirmation No. 8066  
Art Unit: 1725  
Examiner: Lynne Renee Edmondson

Title: SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED FRICTION STIR WELDING (FSW) ASSEMBLY, CONTROLLER AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING A FRICTION STIR WELDING OPERATION

Please process the attached Preliminary Amendment (7 pages) and fax confirmation of receipt to Andrew T. Spence at 704-444-1111. Thank you.

**NO. OF PAGES:** 8  
(Including cover page)

**OPERATOR:**

**IF NOT RECEIVED PROPERLY, PLEASE NOTIFY ME IMMEDIATELY AT**

USER CODE:	SIMMB	FAX NUMBER:	703-872-9306
CLIENT/MATTER:	038190/268379		
REQUESTED BY:	Sarah Simmons 1142	VOICE NUMBER:	

CLT01/4544166v1

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

SEP 20 2004

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No.: 10/706,480 Confirmation No.: 8066  
Applicant(s): Burford et al.  
Filed: October 27, 2003  
Art Unit: 1725  
Examiner: Edmondson, Lynne Renee  
Title: SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED FRICTION STIR WELDING (FSW)  
ASSEMBLY, CONTROLLER AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING  
A FRICTION STIR WELDING OPERATION

Docket No.: 038190/268379  
Customer No.: 00826

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
37 CFR § 1.115**

Sir:

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment before calculating the claim fee and amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.